

# Council Highlights

August 2, 1996  
Roger Kimura MD, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Dr Carl Lehman, President at 5:33 pm.

Those present were J. Spangler, President-elect; R. Kimura, Secretary; L. Howard, Treasurer; F. Holschuh, Immediate Past President; AMA Delegates: C. Kam, R. Stodd; AMA Alternate Delegate: A. Kunimoto; Speaker: H.K.W. Chinn; County Presidents: P. Blanchette - Honolulu, E. Bade - Hawaii; M. Joshi - Maui; T. Smith - W. Hawaii; Councilors: T. Au, D. Canete, P. Chinn, W. Dang, Jr., P. DeMare, C. Kelley, J. Betwee, P. Kim, C. Kadooka; Past Presidents: W. Chang, W. Dang, J. Lumeng, J. McDonnell, S. Wallach, Young Physicians Delegate: C. Goto.

Guests: Gladys Yamashiro - AETNA<sup>TM</sup> Medicare, and Walter Shim, M.D., Honolulu Symphony.

HMA Staff: J. Won, B. Kendro, J. Asato, L. Tong, P. Kawamoto, A. Rogness-recording secretary.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 13 meeting were approved as corrected.

- Dr Lehman introduced Gladys Yamashiro who informed Council that the Aetna<sup>TM</sup> Executive committee announced their withdrawal from the Medicare program throughout the U.S. as of October 1997. Aetna<sup>TM</sup> will continue to service claims during the transition period which will take about 6 months. A letter will be sent to Ms. Elizabeth Abbott, Regional Administrator of HCFA, Bruce Vladeck Jr., Administrator of HCFA and Robert Bath, Pacific Area Representative of HCFA expressing concern for retention of a local office.

- Dr Lehman reported: 1) The HMA Executive Officers met with

HMSA who reported that they are planning to revise the participating physicians agreement and administrative operating procedures by October 1996. HMA legal counsel will keep the council abreast of the developments. 2) Mr Bruce Balfe, AMA's Strategic Planner, will come to Hawaii to do a strategic planning session. A cross section of physicians along with the Officers will attend the session. 3) A seminar will be held on No-Fault and Worker's Compensation. HMA Officers and Mr Won interviewed a person who was interested in recruiting members for the HMA but felt the person was not suitable for the position. 5) The Hawaii Health Council will sponsor a meeting addressing alternative dispute resolutions in November for HMA members as well as other health care workers. 6) September is declared Women's Health Month and the Hawaii Medical Journal is preparing a special issue addressing

women's health and domestic violence. 7) Annual reports are due by August 26, 1996 and Resolutions by September 17, 1996. 8) He continues to meet with an adhoc committee regarding a single point of entry in long term and disability care. A report is planned for the end of this year.

## For Action

1) Council approved Dr Walter Shim's request of Dr Sam Wong becoming an honorary member of the HMA, given no objection by the HCMS Membership Committee.

2) Council voted to work with any credible organization who proposes to become the EQRO for the Hawaii QUEST program.

## Component Society Reports

**Honolulu.**—Dr P. Blanchette reported: 1) the HCMS is having a series of meetings at hospitals where nonmembers are invited. They will discuss Peer Review and how complaints are handled with a legislative update on what is current and what is likely to come up at the next legislative session.

**Kauai.**—Dr P. Kim reported the next county meeting will be on Saturday, September 7th. The members of the Kauai County are willing to help the HMA in any aspects necessary for the HMA Annual Meeting on Kauai.

**West Hawaii.**—Dr T. Smith reported: 1) That their County will have a joint East-West meeting. 2) The County is waiting to see what kind of action will stem from the AMA Federation Reorganization Report.

**Hawaii.**—Dr E. Bade reported that the last County meeting was July 25 with 40 physicians in attendance with speakers, Dr John Heaster who spoke on depression and Dr Bade who spoke on tuberculosis. The county also had a family picnic which was well attended.

**Maui.**—Dr M. Joshi reported: 1) That their County met a couple of weeks ago with a speaker who wrote a few books on alternative medicine. 2) With the new changes in Worker's Compensation there are independent provider organizations being set up.

## For Information

**Credential Information Verification Service (CIVS):** Mr Won reported that marketing packets have been sent out to hospitals and organizations.

**Urban Institute.**—Representatives from the institute will attend an August 6 meeting at the HMA to hear comments from physicians on the QUEST program.

**Patient Right to Know Act 1995.**—Mr Won reported that there are coalitions on the mainland whose purpose is to foster the idea that patients in managed care plans have the right or need to know in writing what benefits are covered and what is not covered. HMA will meet with coalition representatives in September.

**Tobacco Task Force.**—The Tobacco Task Force and HMA Officers met with Michael Fiore, a professor who just finished compiling clinical practice guidelines for the Dept. of Health and Human Services. A compendium of different literature which is available to physicians at no cost. The Task Force will seek to have the compendiums available for physicians at the HMA Annual Meeting on Kauai in October.

**AMA Delegates Report.**—The AMA Speakers Report provided the highlights of the meeting. The Hawaii delegation's resolution on tobacco was one of the highlights listed. Council gave Dr John McDonnell a round of applause for his dedicated work on the Tobacco Task Force and providing a well received resolution. Drs Calvin Kam, Russell Stodd and Allan Kunimoto also received a round of applause for representing the Hawaii Delegation at the AMA meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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